CHINA CELEBRATES THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARCH 8TH

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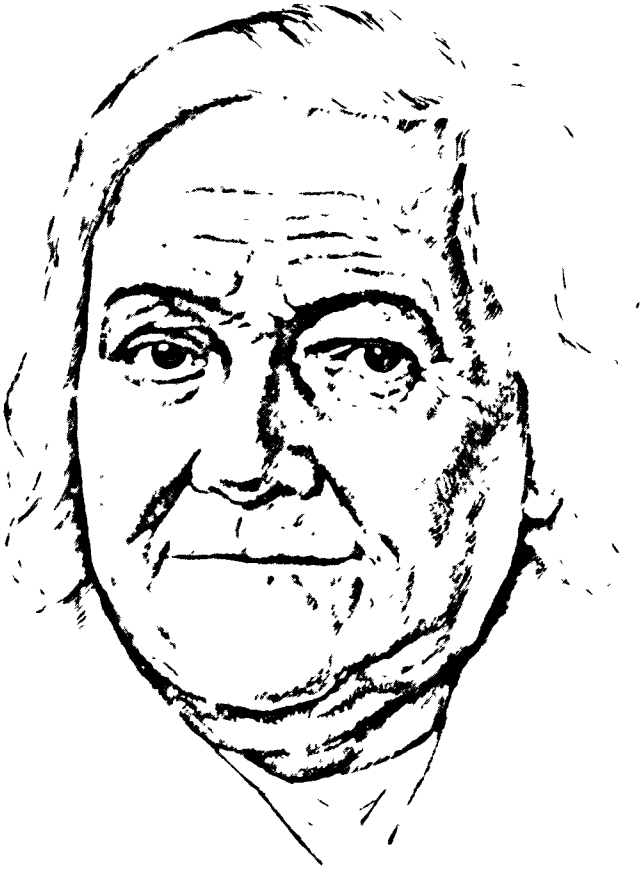

Clara Zetkin

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FOREWORD

The Chinese women celebrated the 50th anniversary of March 8, International Working Women's Day, with indescribable excitement and joy, ceremony and enthusiasm, and on a scale hitherto unknown.

To arrange for the celebration activities, a national preparatory committee was formed in February. It consisted of leading members of 19 national people's organizations in China including the National Women's Federation of the People's Republic of China, the trade union, youth, art and literary, science and peace organizations, and representative figures of women in all walks of life. Nine principal people's organizations, including the National Women's Federation, issued a notice calling upon the nation as a whole to warmly celebrate this great red-letter day. Immediately the Chinese women plunged themselves into a drive for new achievements to greet March 8. Under the sponsorship of the National Women's Federation, arrangements were made in various places to select the best women individuals and groups as bearers of the March 8 Red Banner. Red banner honours were given to women, either as individuals or as groups, who were politically progressive, had an outstanding working record to their credit, and were good at uniting with the masses. The process of selecting these Red Banner Bearers was accompanied by a broad mass movement to vie with and learn from the advanced.

The celebration activities reached their crest in the beginning of March. Between March 5 and 8, China's capital Peking witnessed four unparallelled gatherings: the meeting, which was broadcast over the nation-wide network, to cite and award the bearers of the March 8 Red Banner and to encourage women throughout the country to go all out for a continued leap forward; the mass rally attended by women of all circles in Peking to mark the occasion; the reception in honour of friends from various countries; and the evening get-together of the Chinese women and their foreign friends. Anniversary activities in various localities were varied and rich in content. All this showed in a crystallized way the great achievements of the Chinese women in production and other sorts of work, and demonstrated that the Chinese women, who have won their emancipation, give themselves organized, and have a high level of socialist consciousness, possess immense wisdom and strength. It also testified to the unswerving will of the Chinese women for promoting the continued leap forward in China's construction, strengthening the friendship and unity among the women of the various countries, and defending peace in Asia and the world over.

That the 50th anniversary of March 8 was commemorated in China with such great warmth and on such a massive scale was closely connected with the continued big leap forward in the country's socialist construction and the fact that the women's emancipation movement in China has entered a new, more deep-going stage, the stage of complete emancipation. Meanwhile, the unprecedented development of the cause of world peace and progress and the achievements attained by the women in various countries in safeguarding peace, democracy,

nd national independence and in their struggle for 'omen's rights and a happy life for children have also reatly inspired the Chinese women and people. This ; why they commemorated the 50th anniversary of Iarch 8 with such unqualified joy.

Led by the Communist Party of China, the Chinese eople are building socialism at a high speed. In January 960, the heartening news was spread to every part of he country that thanks to the continuous big leap for- ard in the nation's production and construction in the ast two years, China had fulfilled the main targets of s Second Five-Year Plan (1958-62) three years ahead f schedule. This means that China had accomplished n two years what was originally intended to take five ears. This gratifying news not only showed the great chievements in the continuous big leap forward of 1958 nd 1959, but also indicated that China's socialist construc- ion could be developed at a high speed and that the hinese people would be able to enjoy an even happier ife in the future even sooner than was previously fore- een. That is why the Chinese women are more confident han ever in the flourishing and prosperity of their coun- ry and their own immensely bright future. As they ail the tremendous successes of the country's continuous ig leap forward of 1958 and 1959, the Chinese people annot but recall the meritorious services performed by heir womenfolk in the national construction. In con- ributing so much to the nation, the Chinese women have lso greatly raised their position, further changing the iews of society on women. In China, therefore, March 8 is a festival not only for women but also for the people s a whole.

What make the Chinese women feel particularly joyou Ha
are the outstanding and thoroughgoing changes that hav the
taken place in their own life during the past two year depe
The most important of these changes is that women ar and
taking part in social production and services on a univers bein
scale. The big leap forward in production and construc ably
tion, and the universal setting up of rural people's com won
munes and their firm development have opened vas cour
perspectives for women to go out to work, either in pro valu
duction or otherwise. In the two years of 1958 and 195 had
the total number of women workers and other employee W
increased by five million. By the end of 1959, it ha a cl
reached more than eight million, over 13 times as man won
as in the early post-liberation days. In the countrysid wel
nearly all able-bodied women are taking part in th nur
various aspects of production and other sorts of wor dev
in the people's communes, and they have become a b the
force in agricultural production. In addition, large num hav
bers of housewives in the cities have, together with th irg
people living around, set up local industries from prac ed
tically nothing and are going all out for production. Th eal
broad masses of women who are going out to work fe hug
very happy that they are able to contribute their sha trib
to the national construction. In whatever job they d ach
they show a strong sense of their responsibilities in s
masters of the country and are tremendously keen o tra
their work. They have not only fulfilled their produc eco
tion plans but have also made technical innovations an tio
raised the production level. Many women have demon nat
strated their creativeness and gained noteworthy achiev
ments in technical innovations and the manufacture car
new products. Women have become a vital force tio
China's national construction. fre

Having joined social production on a universal scale, Chinese women have rid themselves of their economic ependence and have thus raised their status in society l in the family. They also feel immensely proud of ng the creators of social wealth. This was unmistaky shown on March 8 this year when great numbers of men in Peking and other cities as well as in the ntryside turned out to mark their great festival with uable contributions in the shape of the products they l made and achievements in their work.

Women's participation in social production has led to change in their life. To enable the broad masses of men to go out to work with a light heart, collective lfare facilities such as community dining-rooms, rseries, kindergartens and sewing teams have been veloped extensively in the countryside and cities over e past two years, while neighbourhood service centres ve been set up in the cities. The Chinese women have gently demanded to have their burden of family chores duced and to take part in production, because the big p forward in production and construction calls for a ge labour force and they realize that they can conbute more to the nation's socialist construction and hieve genuine equality with men only by taking part social labour. Under such conditions, it is necessary to ansform household drudgery into collective socialist onomic undertakings and thus bring about the socializaon of household work, in order to meet the needs of tional construction and satisfy the demands of women. The socialization of household work which is now being rried out in China has great bearing on the emancipaon of women. Tens of millions of women have been eed from the household drudgery which wore down

Chinese women over generations. They can now wholeheartedly devote themselves to their job, whether it be in production or otherwise, and take part in studies and other social activities. This paves the way for further wiping out the remnants of women's inequality with men both on the job and in daily life. The socialization of housework has brought about greater harmony and equality within the family, made family life more happy and pleasant, and enabled children to get a better social and family education.

The participation of the broad masses of women in production has brought about remarkable changes in their spirits. In recent years the Chinese women have become deeply aware that individual happiness must rest upon the foundation of the nation's prosperity. They clearly understand that for the happiness of the people as a whole, China must be built in the shortest time into a powerful socialist country with a modern industry modern agriculture, and a modern science and culture and must march towards communism in the future. It is precisely because they have a clear-cut and lofty goal of struggle that they have shed their feelings of inferiority uphold high and lofty aims, dare to think and speak out boldly, and turn their wisdom and talents to all sorts of things and do them well.

In the course of collective production and collective life they have developed a collective spirit. To raise jointly the level of production, they are extremely keen in learning from the advanced and helping the backward. taking on the difficulties and hardships themselves and leaving the easier jobs and conveniences to others. It is already general practice among women to make sacrifices for the public good and take pleasure in helping others.

The broad masses of Chinese women have become a new type of women with socialist ideas and a new moral character.

The abolition of the private ownership of the means of production and the establishment of the socialist system in China have eliminated once and for all the social roots of the oppression of women and led to their emancipation. Over the last two years, as a result of the great leap forward in production and construction in our country, women have participated on an extensive scale in social labour and are freed from housework. A big change has taken place in their spirits. All this shows that the Chinese women's movement has entered a new stage, namely, that of the realization of women's complete emancipation.

Despite the tremendous progress they have made, the Chinese women feel that they are still unable to match up to the needs of China's swift development of construction. That is why during the celebrations they declared their determination to raise their ideological and theoretical level as well as their knowledge of culture and science, and to step up their physical training. In this way, they will make bigger contribution for a still better, over-all big leap in China's construction this year and for the defence of peace in Asia and the world over.

MARCH 8—A DAY OF GREAT REJOICING

All Peking was in a festive mood on March 8 and ever for the few days preceding it. In honour of the 50th anniversary of International Working Women's Day, the women of all circles held a grand celebration on March 7 in Peking in the Great Hall of the People. The enthusiasm of the ten thousand people present was heightened by the participation of leaders of the Chinese Communist Party and Government. Among them were Chou En-lai, Vice-Chairman of the Party's Central Committee and Premier of the State Council, Teng Hsiao-ping, General Secretary of the Party's Central Committee Peng Chen, member of the Political Bureau of the Party's Central Committee and Mayor of Peking, and Li Fu-chun member of the Political Bureau of the Party's Central Committee and Vice-Premier. The foreign guests included the representatives of the Women's International Democratic Federation, specially invited to China for the occasion, women representatives from the Soviet Union Korea, Mongolia, Hungary, Japan and other countries wives of diplomatic envoys in China, women experts and wives of experts from the Soviet Union and other countries who have come from afar to help China in her construction. Altogether some 1,200 of them joined the Chinese women in making the celebration merrier.

Teng Ying-chao, Vice-President of the National Women's Federation of China, addressed the meeting.

On behalf of the Chinese women and the Presidium of the celebration meeting, she first extended a hearty welcome to the foreign guests and offered warm congratulations to all friends and comrades present. After mentioning and praising the work of Clara Zetkin, the initiator of Women's Day on March 8, she analysed the advance and the various achievements of the women's emancipation movements in different countries during the last fifty years. She said that these have convinced the people that, in this era when the East wind prevails over the West wind, the women's emancipation movement, as an important part of the cause of peace, democracy, national independence and socialism, will surely score new and greater victories. Citing specific facts, she explained how since 1958 the women's movement in China, guided by the general line for socialist construction and stimulated by the great leap forward and the people's communes, has leaped into a new stage — that of realizing complete emancipation. Millions of Chinese women have taken their place in social labour, gaining a high socialist consciousness and a certain level of culture and technical skill.

She warmly encouraged the women of the whole country to exert their best efforts to raise their political consciousness, increase their theoretical, cultural and scientific knowledge, actively participate in the campaign for increasing production and practising economy which centres on technical innovations and the technical revolution, work for mechanization or semi-mechanization, automation or semi-automation, and run both collective welfare and social services efficiently. She called on all

women to continue making great leaps forward, to strive for the safeguarding of world peace, as well as for women's complete emancipation and children's welfare. She analysed the current world situation, pointing out that there has been a certain trend towards the relaxation of international tension but that full vigilance must be maintained against U.S. imperialism, the arch enemy of world peace. She also expressed the Chinese women's earnest desire to strengthen their solidarity with the women of the Soviet Union, the other socialist countries, those of the Asian, African, Latin-American countries and all other peace-loving women of the world.

A message of congratulations was then read from Soong Ching Ling, Vice-Chairman of the People's Republic of China, which was greeted with enthusiastic applause.

Others who addressed the gathering were the representative of the Women's International Democratic Federation, leaders of women's delegations from the Soviet Union, Korea, Mongolia, Japan and other countries, a representative of the women of the embassies of the socialist, Asian and African countries in China and a representative of the Soviet women experts and the wives of the Soviet experts. They conveyed the greetings of the women of their countries to the Chinese women and told the audience about the successes and struggles of the women in their respective countries. Their inspiring speeches were heartily received.

Then, to the sound of trumpets and drums, over 700 Young Pioneers, holding high bunches of flowers and colourful balloons, poured into the meeting hall. They came to offer the greetings of the 560,000 Young Pioneers in Peking. Five children read a long and moving poem

in praise of the achievements of their "aunts" and "elder sisters." They said in the poem:

. . . . . .

Your contributions to the motherland are great,
Your achievements are as beautiful as poems,
You have set untold examples for us to follow.

Then the children flew to the rostrum and presented their flowers to the Party and Government leaders, the women representatives from foreign countries and all the members of the Presidium. The entire hall rose and clapped enthusiastically. Many were moved to tears, for it is precisely for the children of our motherland, for the bright future of women and children that the Chinese women are throwing themselves so wholeheartedly into their work.

Following this came the ceremony to demonstrate the contributions women are making. Over 2,000 Peking women marched in to salute the rally with big charts, models, and products. The multifarious and colourful procession held the hall spellbound. Women workers and other employees passed the rostrum, bearing 122 of their products, evoking great admiration for their tremendous successes, the outcome of their fearless spirit and bold inventiveness. The women from the people's communes on the outskirts of Peking who engage in arable farming, forestry, animal husbandry, side-occupations and fishery followed, carrying high-yielding golden rice-ears, snowy-white silkworm cocoons, a huge cabbage weighing over ten kilogrammes, fresh big cucumbers, fat ducks and chickens they had carefully tended. This demonstration of the achievements of the people's com-

munes and the vital role the women members play i agricultural production was most impressive.

Then came the women of neighbourhood factories wit various machines, examples of their technical innovation and samples of their new products, all made with the own hands. Two years ago they were housewives. No they are actively participating in various kinds of socia labour. They have plunged into productive occupation to serve the people. All this goes to show the great ro of the city housewives and their marked success sinc they took part in various forms of socially productiv labour after the start of the big leap forward.

Next followed militia women and women traffic pol marching vigorously and rhythmically as they passe the reviewing stand of the Presidium. Then came th sportswomen, full of energy and vitality, indicative o the vast transformation that has taken place in th physique of Chinese women. Women artists appeare giving short performances of dancing, singing, or wha ever they were best known for. They symbolized th growth of China's culture and art as a result of applyin the policy of "letting a hundred flowers blossom."

One of the most colourful performances of the da was the programme given by children from the nurseri and kindergartens. They sang for their "aunts" an "elder sisters."

This multifarious and colourful procession lasted fo more than an hour — an exhibition of the remarkab achievements made by the women of Peking in th nation-wide great leap forward. It exemplified the bol and creative spirit of the Chinese women on their way t complete emancipation. The appearance of the proce

sion brought the gay spirit of the celebration meeting to its climax.

On the evening of March 8, a grand banquet was given in honour of the foreign guests. In the same Great Hall of the People more than 4,000 gathered in the most friendly and happy atmosphere. Everybody toasted *kan pei* to this glorious day and to the great unity of the women throughout the world. *Kan pei* now became a universally understood word expressing friendship, and no interpreters were needed. At the banquet, Tsai Chang, President of the National Women's Federation, made a speech on behalf of the preparatory committee for the occasion, warmly congratulating all friends from other lands. Chen Yi, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and Vice-Premier, on behalf of the Party's Central Committee and the State Council, drank to the health of the women guests, and congratulated the peace-loving women of the world on their success in the struggle to oppose imperialist aggression and defend world peace. The representative of the Women's International Democratic Federation and the leaders of the Soviet and Japanese women's delegations all expressed their good wishes. On behalf of the diplomatic envoys and their wives present, Mr. Abdul Samad, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Afghanistan to China, also proposed a toast. Continuous applause mingled with music throughout the festivities.

After the banquet a grand party for over 20,000 people commenced. A great variety of programmes catered to various tastes. They included ballroom dancing, Peking opera, film shows, operas and ballets, folk dances and acrobatics. Children flocked to the puppet shows and

shadow plays. There were also competitions and game of skill galore.

Old acquaintances were renewed while new friend were made. Hsu Hsueh-hui, the heroic woman who lo both her hands in defending state property against rob bers, was present. She had recently returned from th Soviet Union where artificial hands had been made fo her. Soviet guests greeted her warmly and she becam the centre of attention.

Between March 8 and 14, the National Women' Federation and the Ministry of Culture co-sponsored film week to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Marc 8. In all major, medium-sized and small cities in Chin six films featuring women were shown, including "Fiv Golden Flowers" which won an award in the rece Asian-African film week in Cairo, "Spring Is Every where" which was widely acclaimed, and the colour film "The Song of Youth" and "Sisters on the Skating Rink. In one week, 18,427 shows were given with a box-offic sale of 13,937,760 tickets. In honour of the occasio entertainment in the form of drama, operas and per formances of ballads and songs were arranged. Exhibi tions of the work of women artists and photographer were held in Peking. Special memorial stamps wer issued to mark this great occasion.

The celebration was not confined to the capital. Al over the country Chinese women were wholehearted engaged in festive activities. The women of Tibet wh were liberated from serfdom not long ago joyfully cel brated this festival for the first time in their lives. I Lhasa, 7,000 women held a celebration meeting at whic they expressed their great determination to build a ne socialist Tibet. In Chengchow, Honan Province, th

celebration meeting was attended by 50,000, the women presenting more than 1,000 of their contributions. In Nanchang City, Kiangsi Province, there was a parade of 50,000 women who carried their own new products and models accompanied by the beating of gongs and drums. Among them were women steel-smelters, makers of electrical appliances, building workers and those in various other occupations. Some of them were housewives until recently. They are proud of being workers and producers. Their menfolk and children applauded them as they passed. Obviously they were proud of their wives and mothers.

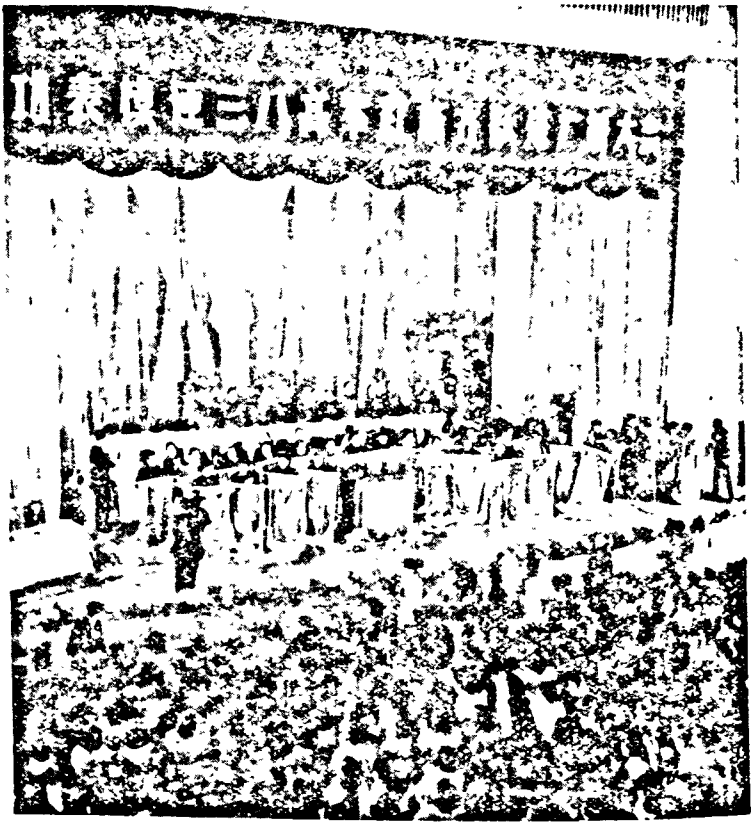
The celebration activities which were rich in content varied in different places. In Shanghai, Chungking and Harbin, exhibitions showing technical innovations made by women were held and "Clever Girl" contests were arranged. In Peking, Canton, Nanning, Foochow and Changsha, there were sports meetings including track and field, motor-cycle and cycle races, demonstrations in making model aeroplanes, together with marksmanship and gymnastics. In Tientsin, Nanking and Lanchow, women residents held poetry and painting competitions. In Shenyang, women put on amateur stage performances for several days, and in various art forms praised the new way of life in their new society.

These celebrations on such a grand scale further reinforced the Chinese women's understanding of internationalism and strengthened their unity and friendship with the women of all countries. At the same time, the new strength and energy of Chinese women was reviewed which further heightened their lofty aspirations and great determination to build socialism at a still quicker pace. Through their own experience, Chinese women now

understand that the general line for building socialism in China, the great leap forward and the people's communes have opened a broad path leading to their complete emancipation. They are ready to plunge into a campaign for increasing production and practising economy which centres on technical innovations and a technical revolution, and strive to make a still greater contribution to a better and more all-round great leap forward in China's national economy in 1960 and to the defence of world peace.

How They Celebrated the Day

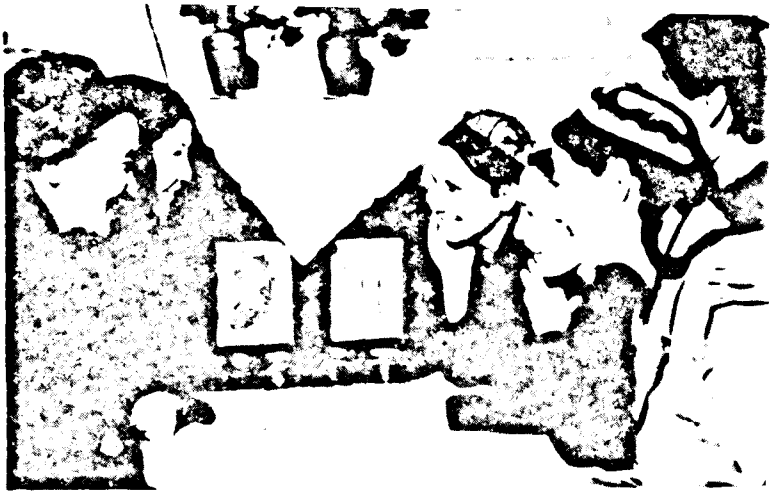
ai Chang President of the National omen s Federation of the People s Re- blic of China, speaks to the women of ina. The proceedings of the meeting re broadcast over the nation-wide network



Representatives of the March 8 Red Banner Bearers and Groups receiving awards in the meeting

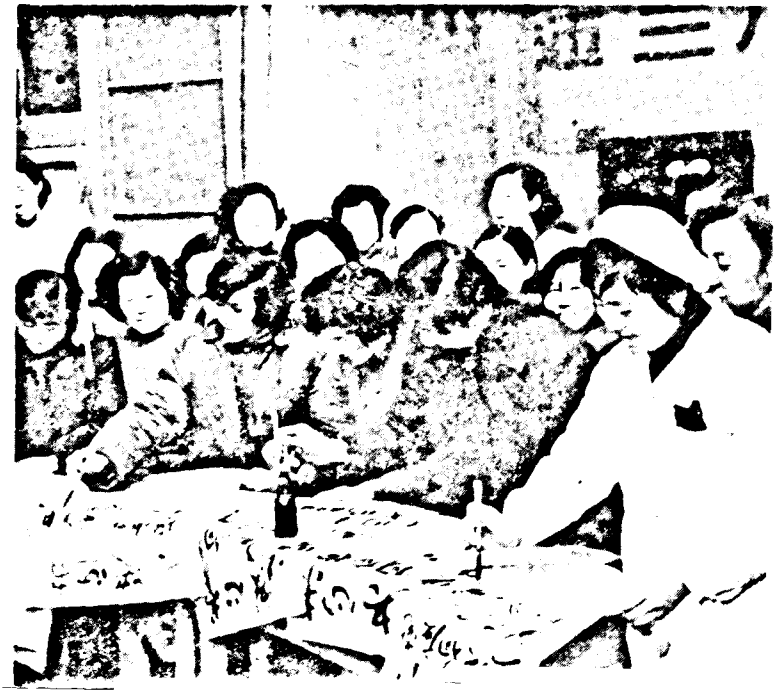
Women workers of the No. 2 State Cotton Mill in Shanghai congratulate Yi Shih-chuan *(standing)* and her team while listening in to the broadcast. Yi Shih-chuan is a Red Banner Bearer and her team is a Red Banner Group

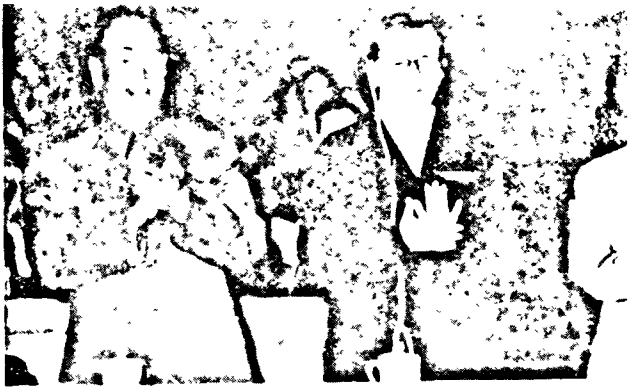
Women members of the Haitien People's Commune in the outskirts of Peking listening in to the broadcast

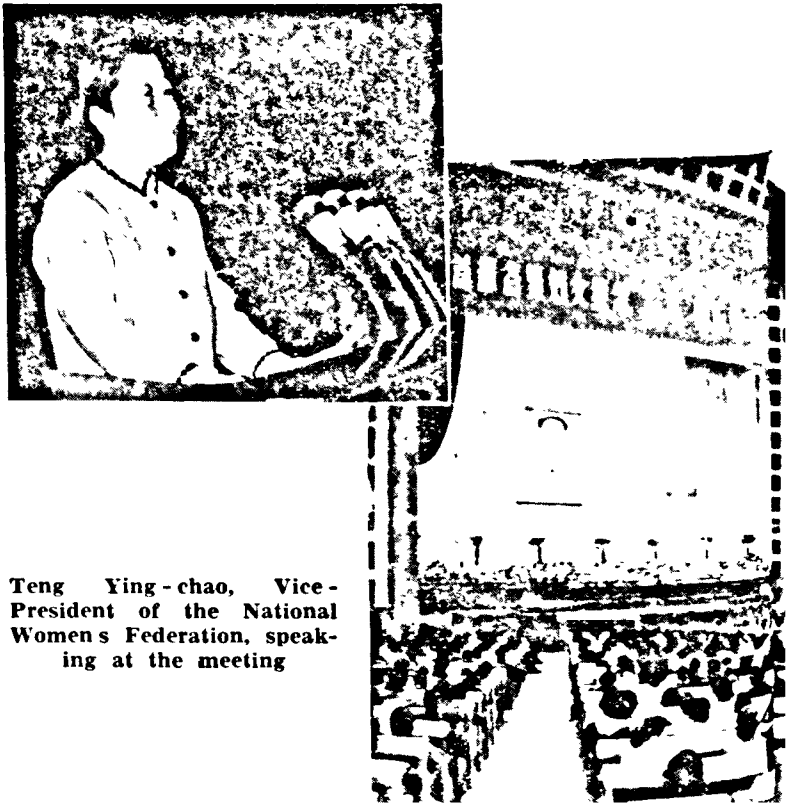


Members of a people's commune in the Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region listening in to the broadcast. Yutsehan Karim *(third from left)*, **a member of the commune, is a March 8 Red Banner Bearer**

Assistants of the Hukuossu Women's Shop in Peking — they form a Red Banner Group — writing pledges after listening in to the broadcast

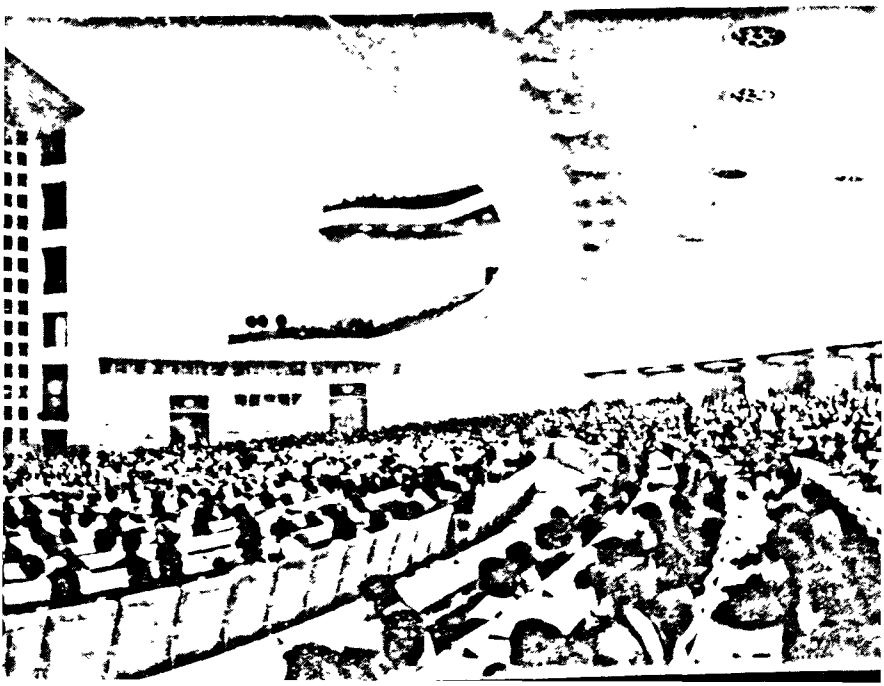






Teng Ying-chao, Vice-President of the National Women's Federation, speaking at the meeting

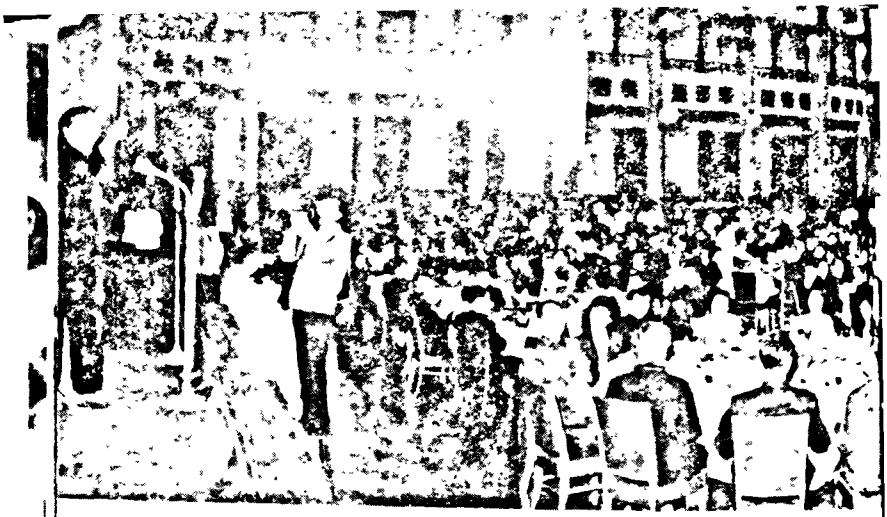
the Presidium at the Peking celebration rally. *Left to right, first row:* ng Chen, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of Chinese Communist Party and Mayor of Peking; M. D. Kovridina, Head the Soviet Women's Delegation; Chou En-lai, Vice-Chairman of the ntral Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and Premier of the ate Council; Tsai Chang, President of the National Women's Federation; ng Hsiao-ping, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the inese Communist Party; Mrs. Grete Muller, representative of the Women's International Democratic Federation



Attending the rally are some who took part in the Long March of the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army. Third, fourth and fifth from the left in the second row are Teng Ying-chao, Tsai Chang, and Li Chen, Major-General of the Chinese People's Liberation Army

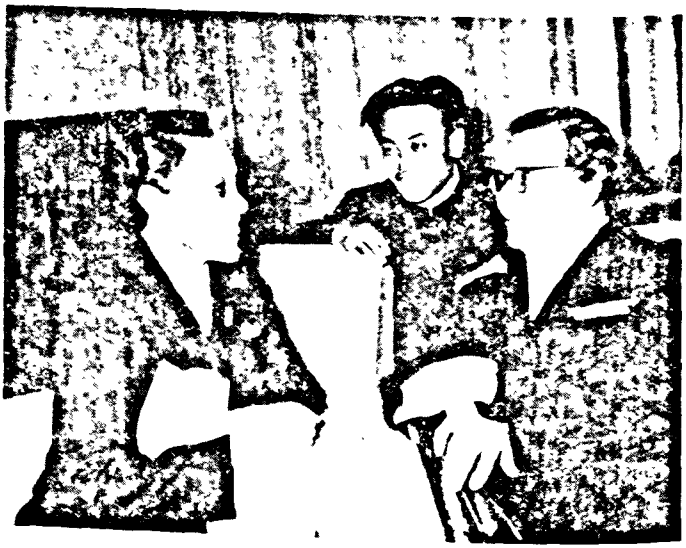
Women of Peking presenting tributes to the rally

ıildren extending eir greetings to the lly in the form of the *yangko* dance



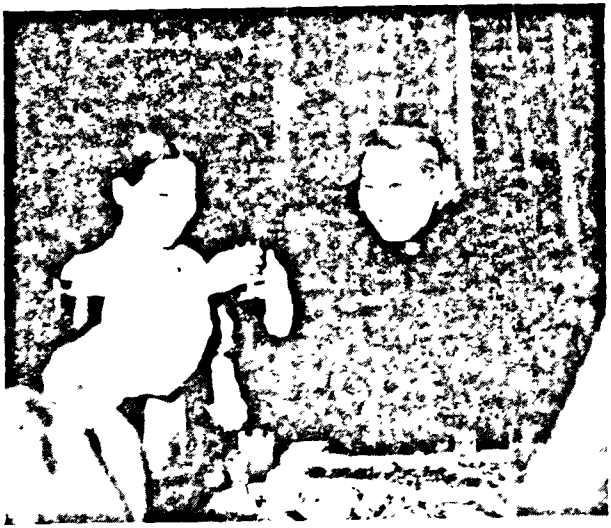
Grand reception on the evening of the festival. Tsai Chan President of the National Women's Federation, toasts all prese

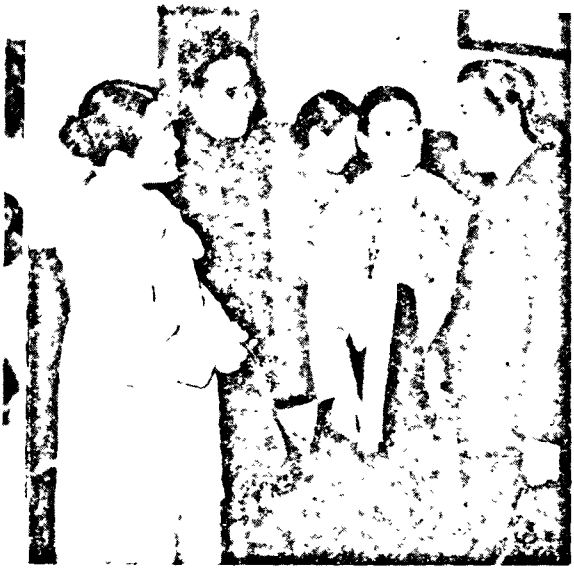
Tsai Chang chats with M. D. Kovridina, Head of the Soviet Women's Delegation



Li Teh-chuan, Vice-President of the National Women's Federation, toasts M. D. Kovridina, Head of the Soviet Women's Delegation

Chang Yun, Vice-President of the National Women's Federation, toasts Li Lan Swun, a representative of the Korean women

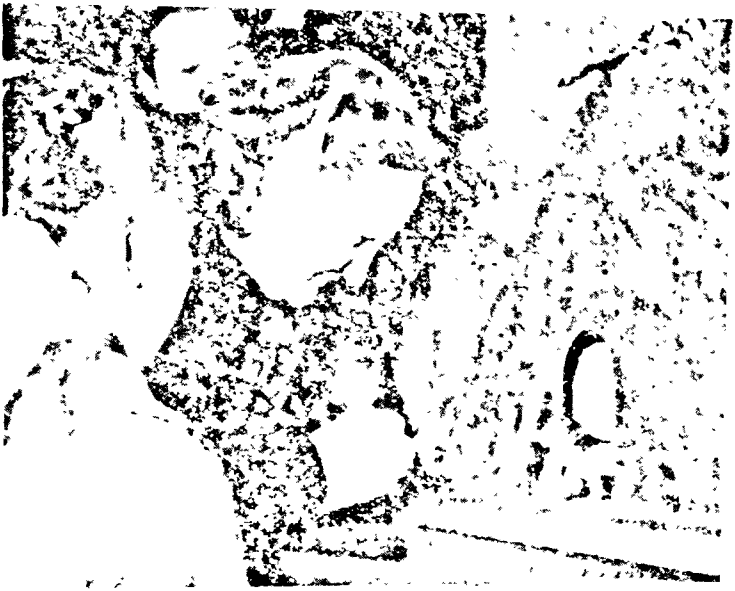




Teng Ying-chao, Vice-President of the National Women's Federation, chats with Li Jung Soon *(first from left)*, Head of the Korean Women's Delegation and Li Lan Swun, a member of the Delegation

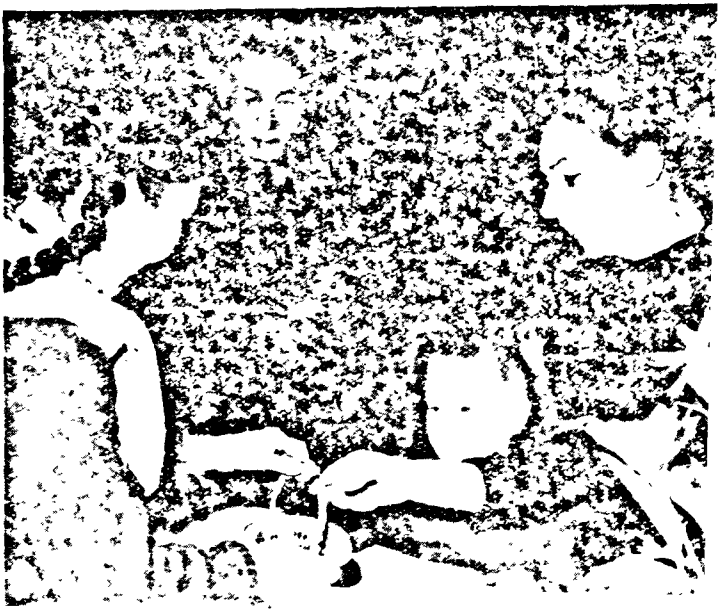
Shih Liang, Vice-P
of the National
Federation, chats
Dulma, the repre
of the Mongolian

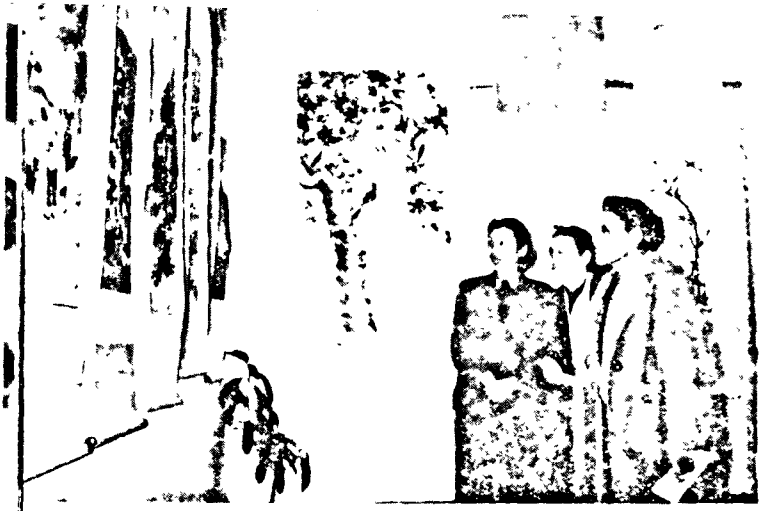
Teng Ying-chao and Hsu Kwang-ping *(centre)*, Vice-Presidents the National Women's Federation, chat with Michiko Fujiwa Head of the Japanese Women's Delegation



Forking the tiger — a game at the evening party

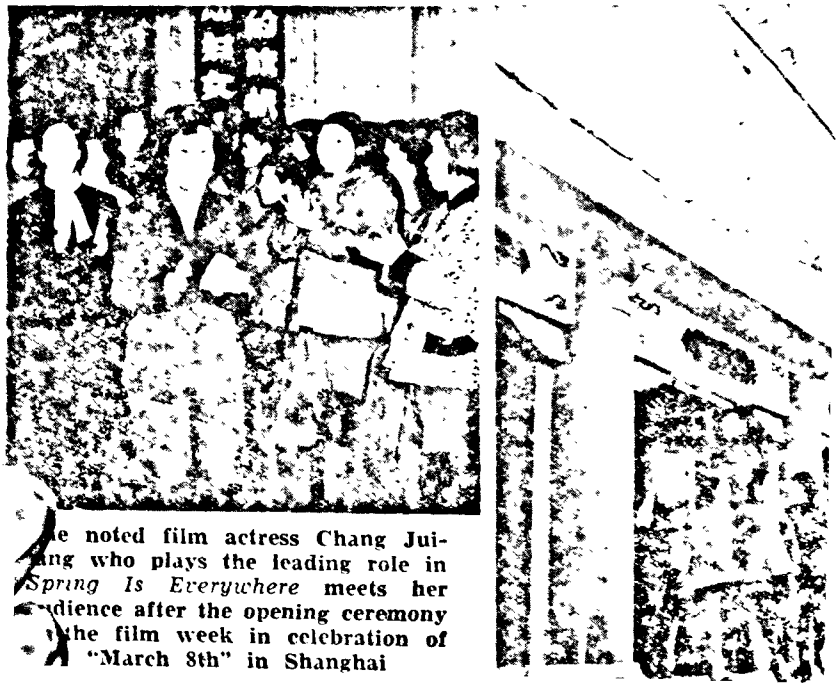
One of the many who won a prize in the games of skill





Tsai Chang, President of the National Women's Federation, Liu Ching-yang, Vice-President, and Yu Feng, a painter *(right to left)* find the works by women painters of great interest in the fine arts exhibition

A film week is he
to mark "March 8t



e noted film actress Chang Jui-ng who plays the leading role in *Spring Is Everywhere* meets her dience after the opening ceremony he film week in celebration of "March 8th" in Shanghai

FLUTTERING RED BANNERS EVERYWHERE

)n the afternoon of March 5, 1960, the Music Hall of Central People's Broadcasting Station in Peking was :d with a happy crowd, waiting for the broadcasting a national meeting. It was jointly sponsored by the .ional Women's Federation of the People's Republic China, eight other organizations and the Broadcasting tion. This meeting was to mark March 8, as Interna-1al Working Women's Day, to cite and congratulate standing women on their achievements and to rally women in the country to hold high the red banner l make concerted efforts for a continuous leap for-rd. From the Music Hall, the meeting was broadcast all corners throughout the vast expanse of China. erybody was in an excited and joyous mood, prepared hail the great achievements of Chinese women in 'ir country's socialist construction since the great leap ward of 1958. The meeting was to witness the cere-)ny of honouring with citations and awards ten)usand outstanding women and groups who were to :eive the title of "March 8 Red Banner Bearer." It is also to inspire all Chinese women to learn from the e qualities and advanced experience of the Red Banner arers, so that a common effort could be made for a ll better and all-round leap forward in 1960.

This magnificent meeting was unprecedented. At t same hour, 150 million Chinese women of vario nationalities left their lathes and looms, their fields a livestock farms, their shops and schools, their labor tories and kindergartens . . . and flocked to radios a loudspeakers to listen intently to the voices coming fr Peking, the heart of the motherland. These women we scattered over the vastness of the country, from the snow bound Tienshan Mountains to Hainan Island dense wi coco-nut groves and from the roaring Yalu River to t Tibetan Plateau known as the "Roof of the World."

"Dear Sisters! . . . From the capital of our gre motherland, Peking, I extend my warmest congratul tions to you for the great successes you have scored building socialism. I congratulate the ten thousa women and groups on the high honours they have w as Bearers of the March 8 Red Banner. . . . These te thousand advanced individuals and groups reflect in concentrated way the tremendous progress made by a our women and the remarkable changes they have unde gone. They are the best representatives of the diligen and heroic working women of China. . . . In order t fully play our part at various posts, we should all resol to become advanced women of the 'red, diligent, skill and frugal' type. We should also take an active part i the labour emulation to vie with, learn from and over take the advanced and help those lagging behind." Thes were the words of Tsai Chang, President of the Nationa Women's Federation, congratulating and praising a Chinese women. Instantly, her resonant voice wa transmitted to every corner of the country across hig mountains, the Yangtse and other wide rivers. It se aflame the hearts of all China's 150 million workin

ıen, inspiring them to achieve a flying speed on their ;ed horses.

ɔeaking at the meeting after Tsai Chang were Liu g-yi, President of the All-China Federation of Trade ɔns; Hu Yao-pang, First Secretary of the Chinese ımunist Youth League; and Mao Yi-sheng, Vice-sident of the Chinese National Association for the ɜemination of Scientific and Technical Knowledge. y greeted the Chinese women warmly and gave them d advice, their speeches being a great inspiration to

ıfter the playing of a gay tune by the band, Chang n, Vice-President of the National Women's Federation, ıounced with overflowing enthusiasm the names of most outstanding of the 10,002 March 8 Red Banner arers among individuals and groups chosen on a nation-de basis. Then the ceremony of making the awards gan. Leading members of the various people's organiza-ns stepped forward with a smile and awarded the red nners to individuals and the representatives of groups. ıe ceremony was punctuated with bursts of congratula-ry applause from the audience.

Among these 10,002 individuals and groups, 6,305 are arch 8 Red Banner Bearers and 3,697 Red Banner roups. Classified by occupation those engaged in in-ıstry number 2,142; in agriculture, 3,963; in finance ıd trade, 510; in such fields as education, public health, ience, literature, art, and physical culture, 993; in work ɔncerned with collective welfare, 1,249; in the service ades, 252; women cadres in government offices and omen employees of various kinds, 743; and 87 military ersonnel. Besides these there are 63 outstanding women r groups representing militia women, dependants of

martyrs and armymen as well as advanced persons and groups known for their industriousness and thrift in household work. The advanced persons and groups in various fields belong to 48 fraternal nationalities including the Mongolian, Hui, Tibetan, Uighur, Miao, Yi, Chuang, Puyi, Korean, Manchu, Tung, Yao, Kazakh, and Olunchun. Some are also from the families of industrialists and businessmen; they have been outstanding in doing actual work and undergoing political and ideological transformation. These are a new type of people who have emerged under the guidance of the Chinese Communist Party and Chairman Mao Tse-tung, since the women's movement entered a new stage of development with the inception of the big leap forward. They have brought honour to the women of the whole country. When people hear their names they will think of them as well as of themselves — of how they have struggled day and night beside blast furnaces, shed tears of joy and excitement when they saw the first flow of molten iron; of how they spent whole nights working on innovations so as to turn out more cloth; of how they went deep into the mountains and forests to look for underground treasures; and of how, to obtain petroleum, they persisted in drilling wells, pouring with sweat even in weather thirty or forty degrees below zero. People will also think of the peasant women who, with an indomitable will, reconstructed desolate mountain regions and harnessed mischievous waters, bringing an abundance of rice and fish to places which suffered from poor harvests nine years out of ten.

The heroic people with an indomitable will
Dig Heroes' Canals across Heroes' Mountains.

The water of the Heroes' Canals rolls on and on.
The heroic people need no help from Heaven.

This is what they say with courage and pride. To exterminate pests they looked everywhere for herbs to make insecticide. Eventually they succeeded and overcame the pests. For this they have been lauded by the peasants and given the name of "Divine Husbandman."[1] People also think of the women who work in commercial establishments and how they serve their customers with diligence and zeal, frequently braving bad weather to deliver goods, delivering them during the night and giving up their holidays during the New Year and other festivals in order to send goods to the homes of their customers. People also think of the contributions made by women doing work in the fields of science, culture and education. In scientific work women now tackle the most modern branches of science and scale the heights of new scientific achievement. In public health work they try to wipe out contagious diseases and lower the rate of incidence of other diseases. In education they devote themselves wholeheartedly to bringing up the younger generation well. In literature and art they create typical characters of China's heroes and heroines who represent this new age of heroism. People can still remember what ordinary housewives have done since the big leap forward. Starting practically from nothing, they have established thousands and thousands of small factories in the side streets; erected "Vanguard" buildings; opened countless numbers of community dining-rooms, nurseries, and service centres, thus enabling

[1] A legendary king supposed to have tasted many kinds of herbs to find remedies for curing the people's diseases.

mothers to go out to work with a light heart and also ensuring that the children are well brought up. . . . At this moment people think of many, many things. . . . These 10,002 women are worthy representatives chosen from millions of advanced and skilful women workers on the various fronts of socialist construction in the whole country — they provide a concentrated picture of the advance made by all heroic women since the big leap forward. They have proven by their own example that "women can do everything and can do everything well." They make people see that, under the socialist system, the power and wisdom displayed by women is infinite and inexhaustible.

On this day, some of these 10,002 Red Banner Bearers and Groups were at their own posts while others were listening in to the radio broadcasts in places far away from Peking. There were also some who, on the platform of this central meeting place, made solemn pledges and showed their determination to leap forward. Wei Feng-ying, expert technical innovator of nation-wide fame and young lathe worker of the Northeast Machine-building Factory who is marching ahead of time, said: "Together with my fellow workers and the technicians I have organized a *hung chuan* (red and expert) brigade composed of more than 150 members. We have the will and determination to march forward towards the technical and cultural revolution; to change all the things in our shop which can be changed by mechanizing and automatizing them." In the old society Wei Feng-ying, in her twenties, was a poor girl whose work was to pick out scraps of unburnt coal and gather wild vegetables. She is now a skilled worker of the fourth grade. During the past six years or so she has made 127 technical innovations

and has added profusely to the wealth of the state. According to her original plan of work she is now fulfilling work scheduled for 1969. In our society we need many, many women like Wei Feng-ying. It is only in a socialist country that we can expect to see such outstanding women who work wholeheartedly for socialism and communism, who dare to think and act boldly and who are continually making progress.

"Everyone is to become a promoter on the political and ideological fronts, a Red Banner Bearer on the production front, a model on the cultural front, a fast-moving vanguard in technical revolution" — this was the great ambition and noble aim expressed at the meeting by Tsao Kuei-fang, a woman textile worker and representative of a Red Banner Group. Women account for more than a half of the total number of workers in the textile industry. Therefore a larger number of labour heroines, women model workers and expert innovators have appeared in this industry. The Yi Shih-chuan group in the spinning shop of the No. 2 State Cotton Mill, Shanghai, has been an "old" model group since 1953. During the big leap forward they increased the speed of their machines. At first the number of broken threads was rather many, but they knew that technical innovations and a technical revolution were decisive factors in the high-speed building of socialism. They persisted in their attempt in spite of difficulties, eventually succeeding in increasing the speed of the machines. When Sun Kuei-chen of the No. 2 State Cotton Mill, Tientsin, first tried to increase the speed of the machines the looms were also frequently stopped and a large quantity of inferior cloth was turned out. In the night when her mother, brothers and sisters were all asleep she would get up

again. Imagining that there were twelve looms in the room she would walk around them and practise certain motions. After assiduous study she invented a new method of work. To evolve a new method of tying broken threads she practised on broken threads after work hours. Stubbornly persisting in her attempt she finally succeeded in overcoming all difficulties and reformed the technique.

Among those at the meeting who expressed their determination to work for a continued leap forward were Chen Shu-chen, head of the "March 8" People's Commune in Suhsien, Anhwei, whom the public have seen in the film "By the Side of the March 8 River"; Cheng Hsing-chen, head of the Shihping Women's Scientific Research Station of the Changshih People's Commune, Kweichow, who is bold in thinking and action and who has stepped boldly into the sanctum of science; Chu Jui-hsiang, head of the "July 1" Stock-breeding Farm in the Tipu People's Commune, Anchi County, Chekiang Province, who loves the farm as her home and treasures the pigs. The women in the countryside across the length and breadth of China have become a big force in agricultural production. Chen Shu-chen said: "Among the 17,000 and more people of the 'March 8' People's Commune who have taken part in building the irrigation projects and a canal network, seventy per cent are women. Their slogans are: 'Let the Dragon King step down from his pedestal, let the land and soil be emancipated.' In 1958 the network of canals was practically completed. Now, to greet International Working Women's Day, they are carrying out extensive technical innovations. The 'March 8' Brigade, after seven days of hard struggle, succeeded in using wind to generate power. Pig raising

depends mainly on women. Many 'March 8' pig farms and women's pig farms have appeared in all parts of the country. The women have decided to win the championship in pig raising." Chu Jui-hsiang said: "In the old society I was like a blade of grass growing by the roadside. Who knew when I was trampled on by one person or another? After liberation I was emancipated. I feel it is an honour to raise pigs. In the new society there is a *chuang yuan*[1] in every one of the 360 trades. I have been in Peking three times and I have seen Chairman Mao. I have joined the Chinese Communist Party which is a great honour for me. The plan of our commune for this year is to set up a pig farm in which 10,000 pigs will be raised. . . ." Her speech was thunderously applauded. In 1956, when there was a big flood in her village, the co-operative put more than 30 pigs in her charge. The piggery collapsed and all the pigs were buried in the debris. Chu waded as fast as possible in deep water to the place to save them. The people were exceedingly worried about her, but she said: "If I die the pigs die too; if I live the pigs will live too." Allowing the things in her own house to be submerged by the flood she finally succeeded in saving the pigs. In this she showed the noble character of working women in taking good care of public property. As Chu said, raising pigs is honourable work. Many women have been extremely successful in raising them. They have earned the respect of society. Fan Hsiu-tsai from Kansu, who became a child bride when she was only ten years of age and underwent all kinds of mis-

[1] In ancient China, the title of *chuang yuan* was conferred on a person who passed the royal examination with the highest honours.

fortunes in the old society, is an ordinary pig tender. She has, however, accumulated rich experience in pig raising, discovered scientific principles and is now engaged as a special research member by the Northwest Stock-breeding and Veterinary Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Chang Shih-chen, a clerk in a store selling non-staple foods on the Kuangfu Road, Tientsin, said: "Since the big leap forward, the conventional method of selling retail goods has been changed. Goods are delivered to shops, construction sites and the homes of workers in spite of inclement weather. Factories and local administrative offices have been helped by us to set up community dining-rooms, nurseries, and service centres, thus enabling the women who have recently taken up jobs to concentrate their energy on production and other sorts of work. In the future, wherever the workers are on their jobs supplies of goods will be taken to them." Hearing what this young girl said everyone felt grateful to those working in the commercial departments for the concern they have for the well-being of the people. Chang Shih-chen was the first to put forward the slogan, "Difficulties for me but conveniences for others." Ever since the big leap forward the commercial departments have been continuously improving their service. Now they have done remarkably well in organizing the people's economic life in an all-round way. Together with the people living around, they have created a new life in which there are mutual aid and mutual care as well as happiness for each and all, a life in which "Everyone has work to do and every kind of work is in the charge of someone." This has further encouraged the people in their zeal for work.

Chuang Pao-ngo, vice-chairman of the Changchiachai local residents' committee in the Chingan District, Shanghai, told the meeting of the intensive effort made by the Shanghai housewives to establish collective welfare. They have invented 639 technical devices such as a universal electric meter, electric washing machine, etc., all of which greatly raise the efficiency of work. Illiteracy has been wiped out in their district. At present everyone can read, many people are learning to write poetry and more than 500 have taken part in spare-time study. Moreover, over 300 people have taken up physical culture through radio-directed physical exercises, ball games, etc. This shows that changes are taking place in the cities, and that the life and spirit of the women are changing too. This profound change in Chinese women has been acclaimed by all.

The hearts of women listening in to the radio in various places were also fired with enthusiasm. They sent reports and good news to the meeting expressing their determination in large numbers of telegrams and phone calls. The Yi Shih-chuan group of Shanghai pledged that in three months they would mechanize the winding of yarn which has hitherto been done by hand and continue to keep their work at the most advanced level. After forty days of struggle the women workers and other employees in the "March 8" construction site of the Harbin Building Company have succeeded in setting up four automated production lines to mix concrete or do other things which increased working efficiency by 24 times. The women members of the Hungmen People's Commune in Hsinhsiang, Honan, made their proposals in a poem:

We will cultivate the rice fields with the touch of an artist.
We will leave no stone unturned to find new sources of water.
We will struggle to reap a bumper wheat harvest,
As our gift to the International Working Women's Day.

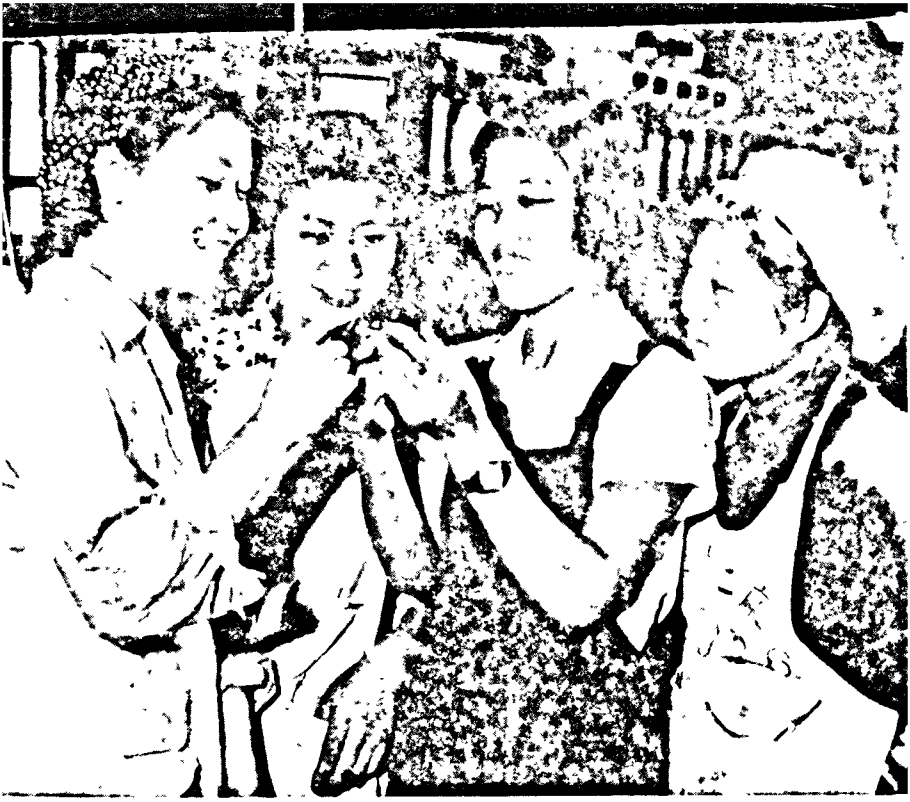
Teng Yu-ying, pig tender of the Lihsing People's Commune in Chucheng, Shantung, reported on her success to the meeting. She took care of a sow which farrowed 44 piglets a few days before March 8. From Canton came a telegram jointly sent by more than seventy overseas Chinese women who have returned from abroad. It says that they will do their best to plant tropical crops, make experiments in order to obtain high yields, raise giant pineapples and plant roses that bloom in profusion. These good news were greeted with great joy.

Space forbids us to enumerate all the outstanding achievements and the resolutions to leap forward. Telegrams reporting glad news were still pouring in from all places when the broadcast meeting finally wound up amid general rejoicing and cheers.

March 8 Red Banner Groups and Red Banner Bearers

Soong Ching Ling *(first from left)*, **Vice-Chairman of the People's Republic of China, and Ko Ching-shih** *(centre)*, **Mayor of Shanghai, presenting awards at the rally in honour of "March 8th' in Shanghai**

Premier Chou En-lai presents a bouquet to Hsu Hsueh-hui, a March 8 Red Banner Bearer. This heroine who lost both her hands in protecting state property, has of late been fitted with "Sino-Soviet friendship' hands, as they are now called in China — artificial hands made for her by a Soviet prosthesis factory

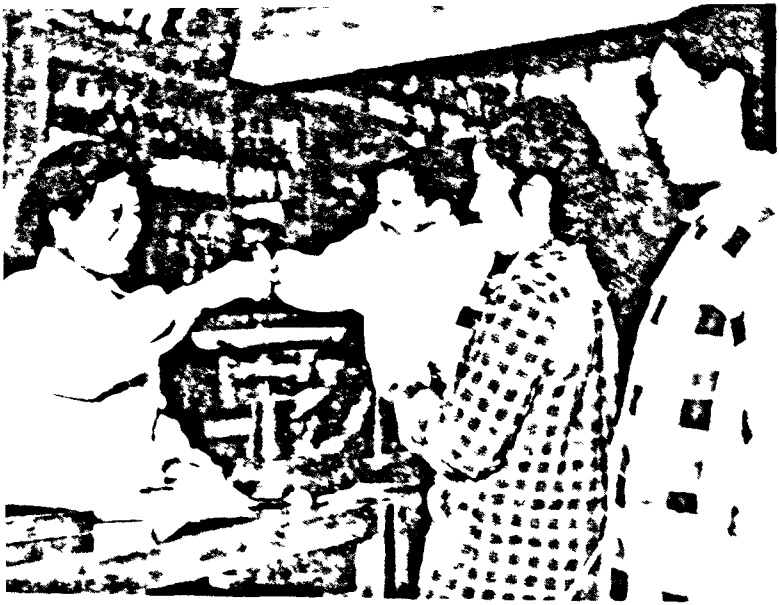


The Yi Shih-chuan Team of the No. 2 State Cotton Mill in Shanghai. A model team for many years, they have recently created a high-speed spinning method

Chang Min-yuan *(right)*, **head of the "March 8th" train conductors' team, swapping experience with the heads of other teams on the Shanghai and Wuhan sections**

The Chang Su-ching Production Brigade in the Kwangsi Chuang Autonomous Region, who are known for their record harvests of rice

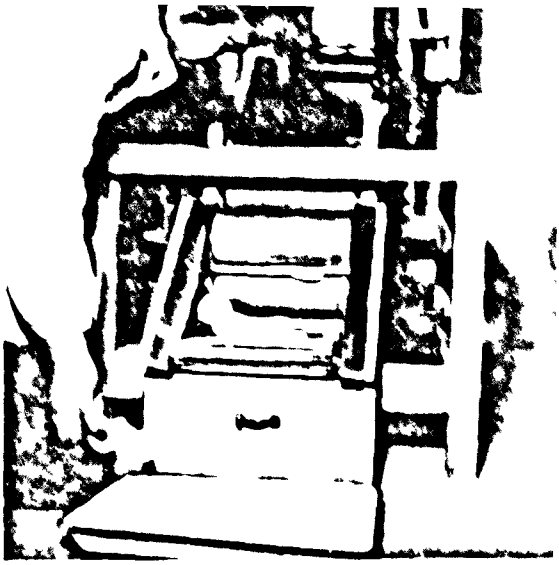
Tang Shu-chen *(speaker)*, **director of the Gold and Lacquer Inlaying and Processing Factory in Chienkuo-men, Peking, introduces their products. The factory is turning out more and better-quality products**



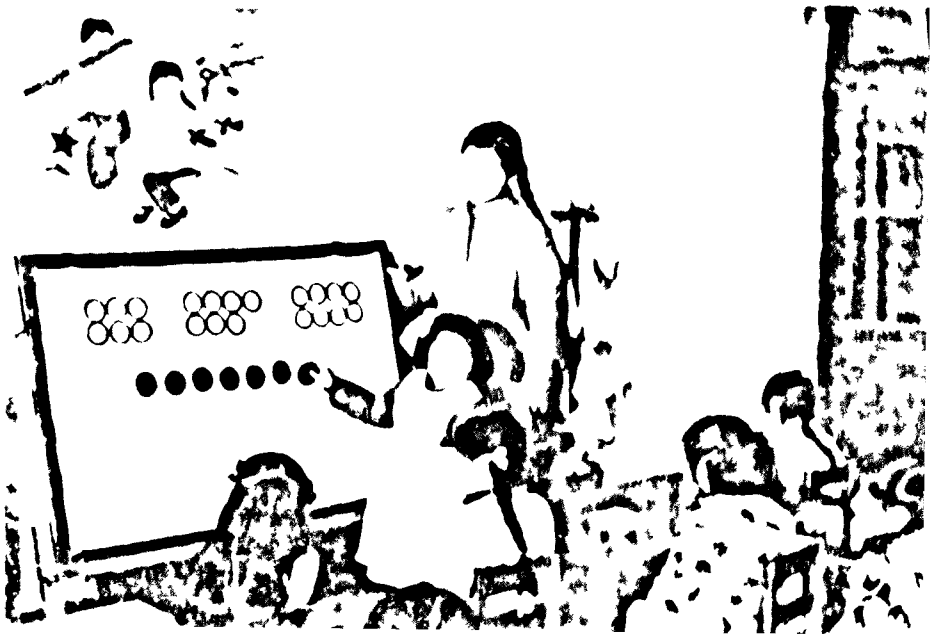
Ass s an s of he Hukuossu Women s S ore n Pek ng — who form a Red Banner Group — rece e many r bu es or he r a en ve serv ces

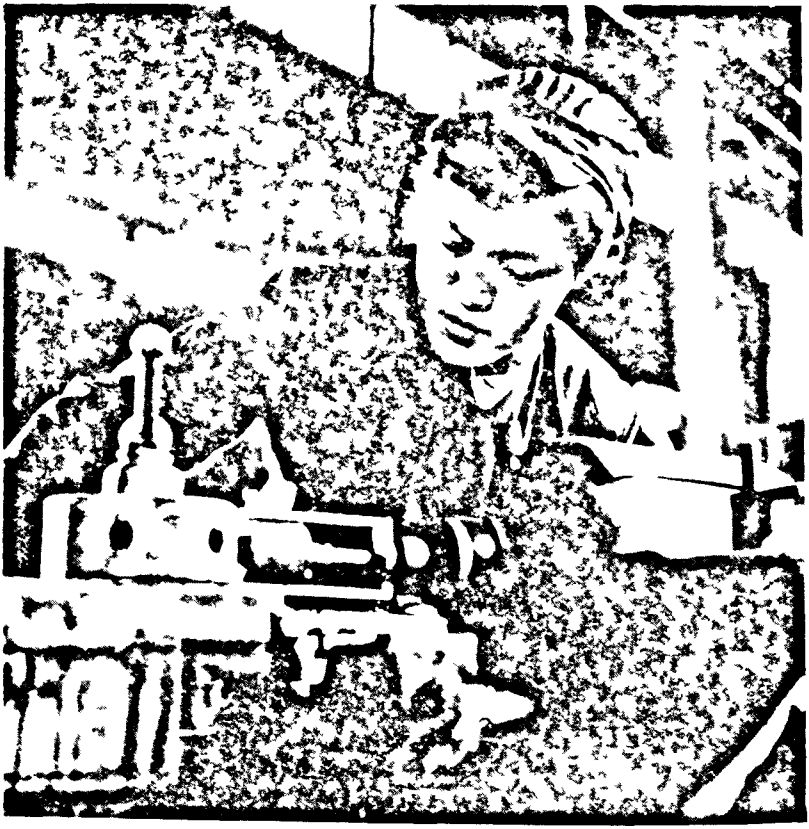
The workers of he c c ser ce cen re n Erh ung Road Pek ng ha e won he e o N arch 8 Red Banner Group for he good work hey have done for he res d en s around he area

De ce or n ak g a k nd o Ch ese s o e rea ed by he Sk s Red D n g roo n e s n Sponsored b he res d en s he d g room se es o er 3 000 peop e da y



Tungh an en K n erg n P k g wh se s a ha e wo he R d Ba er up e



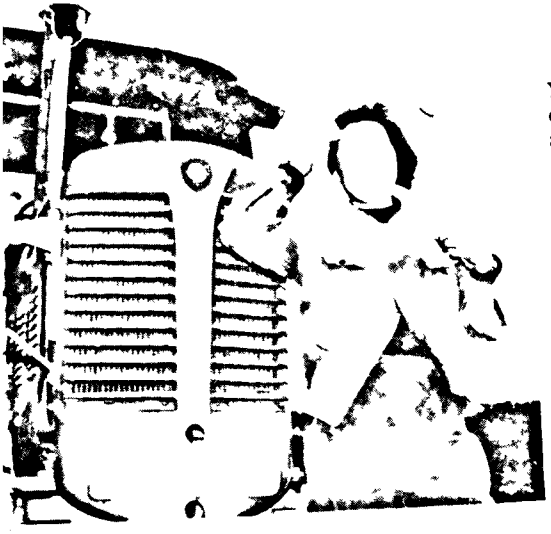


Xu Feng y ng an ou s and ng woman worker who has ou - s r pped me by n roduc ng 127 echn ca nnova ons

Chang Ch u hs ang a
no ed co on grower

Chen Su ch h *fron* r ng sp nner of he weav ng shop of he No 2 Co on M n Pek ng who mproved he weav ng me hod

Chu Shu zu a a he urner of he Ts nan No 2 Mach ne Too s P an makes her con r bu on a an exchange-of exper ence mee ng Her new work ng me hod ra ses e c ency " o d



Yun Ah me a ractor dr ver who has found a be er me hod o p ough ng

Kuo Hs en *ac ng camera* a mode worker of Honan Prov nce who has earned grea cred for her work n mprov ng h and and regu a ng r vers

Pao enhua a capab e Mon-
go an s ock woman *r gh* and
her fe ow workers a end ng
a new born amb

Cheng Hs ng chen head of he
sc en c research s a on of
he Changsh h Peop e s Com-
mune Kwe chow Prov nce has
carr ed ou var ous exper
men s w h marked successes
on crop breed ng up grad ng
o s ock and ex erm na on of
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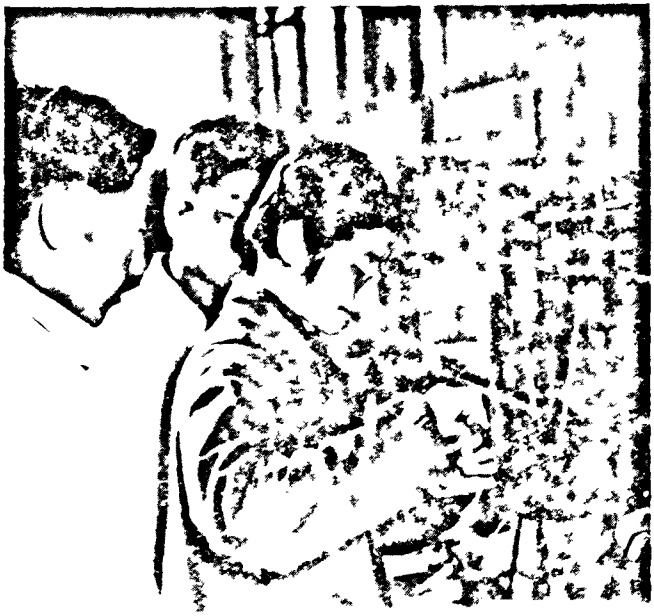
d seases

Hsu Yung ch a young echn c an o cons ruc ona eng neer ng who has mas ered he echn que o des gn ng pre s ressed concre e she roo s

I ou Yu en a pro essor of he Ta en Eng neer ng Ins u e has carr ed ou success u exper men s on var ous dves u s w h an ac ve rad ca



On he way o he wa er conservancy work s e Ch nese pa n ng
by L u Chu ch ng